Please replace claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 15, with the following revised versions thereof:

1.   (Amended)   A method for screening for HCV exposure in humans that utilizes an immunoassay for detection of molecule(s) capable of recognizing multiple classes of anti-HCV molecules simultaneously in oral fluid or other bodily fluid samples comprising the following steps:

(a)   obtaining a sample of oral fluid or other bodily fluid;

(b)   introducing a labeling molecule to label human antibodies present in oral fluid or other bodily fluid samples thereby forming a labeled fluid;

(c)   introducing the labeled fluid into a flow through affinity matrix comprising immobilized HCV peptide antigens;

(d)   selectively capturing and detecting labeled antibodies which are specific for the HCV peptide antigens present within a trapping zone of the flow through affinity matrix,

(e)   measuring the binding reaction between the human antibodies and HCV peptide antigens of the trapping zone by amplified enzymatic reaction wherein the presence of a binding reaction between human antibodies and peptide antigens indicates HCV exposure.

2.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 1 that utilizes a non-antibody molecule as a labeling molecule in step (b) to tag all classes of antibodies for subsequent detection.

6.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 1 wherein the labeling molecule is alkaline phosphatase (AP)-conjugated goat anti-human IgG+IgM+IgA antibody cocktail.

7.   (Amended)   A method for screening oral fluid samples for the presence of anti-HCV molecules of the IgA class comprising the steps of:

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(a)   obtaining a sample of oral fluid;

(b)   introducing a labeling molecule to the oral fluid to label antibodies in said fluid thereby forming a labeled fluid;

(c)   introducing the labeled fluid into a flow through affinity matrix comprising immobilized HCV peptide antigens;

(d)   selectively capturing of labeled antibodies which are specific for the HCV peptide antigens present within a trapping zone of the flow through affinity matrix;

(e)   detecting anti-HCV molecules of the IgA class that specifically bind at least one epitope of the HCV peptide antigens present within the trapping zone.

8.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 7 that utilizes a non-antibody molecule as a labeling molecule in step (b) to tag all classes of antibodies for subsequent detection.

10.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 7 wherein the labeling molecule of step (b) is alkaline phosphatase (AP)-conjugated goat anti-human IgG+IgM+IgA antibody cocktail.

11.   (Amended)   A method for determining the genotype of HCV virus in a patient having HCV by measuring patient antibody binding to HCV peptides of specific HCV genotypes comprising the steps of:

(a)   obtaining a sample of oral fluid or other bodily fluid;

(b)   introducing a labeling molecule to label antibodies present in oral fluid or other bodily fluid samples thereby forming a labeled fluid;

(c)   introducing the labeled fluid into a flow through affinity matrix comprising immobilized HCV peptide antigens;

(d)   selectively capturing and detecting labeled antibodies which are specific for the HCV peptide antigens present within a trapping zone of the flow through affinity matrix;

(e)   measuring the binding reaction between the human antibodies and HCV peptide antigens of the trapping zone by amplified enzymatic reaction to determine the genotype of HCV virus.

12.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 11 that utilizes a non-antibody molecule to as a labeling molecule in step (b) tag all classes of antibodies for subsequent detection.

14.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 11 wherein the labeling molecule is alkaline phosphatase (AP)-conjugated goat anti-human IgG+IgM+IgA antibody cocktail.

15.   (Amended)   A kit for use in the method of claim 1 comprising:

(a)   a labeling molecule to label antibodies present in oral fluid or other bodily fluid samples;

(b)   a flow through affinity matrix comprising immobilized HCV peptide antigens.